



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445
(775) 623-1500
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/winnemucca>



In Reply Refer To:
3072
(NV-022.32)

5-1-02

Mr. Robert D. Williams, State Supervisor
Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, Nevada 89502-7147

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am writing to you to request a Threatened and Endangered species list for lease locations, known geothermal resource areas, and prospectively valuable lands being considered for potential geothermal resource leasing. The enclosed map shows the potential geothermal lease locations. This information will be used by Donald W. Sada, Associate Research Scientist, Division of Hydrologic Sciences, Desert Research Institute, 2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512-1095 for work on the Winnemucca District Geothermal Programmatic environmental assessment.

Thank you for your assistance and if you have any questions please call Clarence L. Covert at (775-623-1571).

Sincerely yours,

Clarence L. Covert
Wildlife Biologist
Renewable Resources

Enclosure

FILE COPY



RECEIVED BLM
WINNEMUCCA NV

United States Department of the Interior MAY 14 AM 11: 26

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

NEVADA FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICE
1340 FINANCIAL BOULEVARD, SUITE 234
RENO, NEVADA 89502-7147

May 13, 2002
File No.1-5-02-SP-191

Memorandum

To: Clarence L. Covert, Wildlife Biologist Renewable Resources, Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca, Nevada

From: Field Supervisor, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, Reno, Nevada

Subject: Species List for Geothermal Resources on the Winnemucca District, BLM

In response to your memorandum received on May 02, 2002, we have enclosed a list of threatened, proposed, and candidate species which may occur in the subject project area (Enclosure A). This list fulfills the requirement of the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to provide information on listed species pursuant to section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), for projects that are authorized, funded, or carried out by a Federal agency. Enclosure B provides a discussion of the responsibilities Federal agencies have under section 7 of the Act and the conditions under which a biological assessment (BA) must be prepared by the lead Federal agency or its designated non-Federal representative.

Your proposed project is located within a potential metapopulation for Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT), and as such, the area may be necessary for the species' recovery. The Northwest Distinct Population Segment Team (NWDPS) has been formed to facilitate the restoration and recovery of LCT populations in this area. The NWDPS will be evaluating areas within this basin which could support LCT. Although a self-sustaining population of LCT may not currently be present in the project area, under the Act, completed projects should not preclude future recovery and survival of this species. We recommend that projects be reviewed for all direct and indirect impacts that they may have on riparian and aquatic habitats as they relate to LCT, and that you consult with the Service accordingly under section 7 of the Act.


For your consideration, Enclosure A also contains a list of other species of concern to the Service which may occur in the project area. The Service has used information from State and Federal agencies and private sources to assess the conservation needs and status of these

species. Further biological research and field study are needed to resolve their conservation status. By considering these species and exploring management alternatives early in the planning process, it may be possible to provide long-term conservation benefits for these species and avoid future conflicts that could otherwise develop. We recommend that you contact the Nevada Natural Heritage Program [1550 East College Parkway, Suite 145, Carson City, Nevada 89710, (775) 687-4245] and the appropriate regional office of the Nevada Division of Wildlife, as well as other local, State, and Federal agencies for distribution data and information on the conservation needs of these and other species of concern.

We note that one or more springs occur within or near the project area. Springs are sensitive to a wide variety of activities and may be occupied by rare aquatic organisms (macroinvertebrates) that may be affected by the proposed action(s). A number of recent studies have found approximately 100 species of aquatic macroinvertebrates in springs and springbrooks throughout the western United States, including springsnails, caddisflies, beetles, true bugs, and crustaceans. There is concern for these species because some are narrowly distributed and, in many cases, their habitats have become highly degraded. Many springs in Nevada have not yet been surveyed to determine if they are occupied by macroinvertebrates. Limited ecological information has been collected; however, gravel substrate, flowing high quality water, and minimal disturbance are believed to be important habitat components to maintain viable populations of these species.

Because wetlands, springs, or streams are known to occur in the project area, we ask that you be aware of potential impacts project activities may have on these areas. Discharge of fill material into wetlands or waters of the United States is regulated by the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. We recommend you contact the Corps' Regulatory Section [300 Booth Street, Room 2103, Reno, Nevada 89509, (775) 784-5304 or 321 North Mall Drive, Suite L-101, St. George, Utah 84790-7314, (435) 986-3979] regarding the possible need for a permit.

Please reference File No. 1-5-02-SP-191 in future correspondence concerning this species list. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me or Chad Mellison at (775) 861-6300.


for Robert D. Williams
Field Supervisor

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE A

THREATENED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES AND SPECIES OF CONCERN

that may occur in
GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE AREAS IN THE WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Nevada

File No. 1-5-02-SP-191; May 13, 2002

Threatened Species

Bird

T Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Fish

T Desert dace *Eremichthys acros*

T Lahontan cutthroat trout *Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*

Proposed Threatened

Bird

PT Mountain plover *Charadrius montanus*

Candidate Species

Bird

C Western yellow-billed cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*

Species of Concern

Mammals

Pygmy rabbit

Brachylagus idahoensis

Pale Townsend's big-eared bat

Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens

Pacific Townsend's big-eared bat

Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii

Spotted bat

Euderma maculatum

Small-footed myotis

Myotis ciliolabrum

Long-eared myotis
Fringed myotis
Long-legged myotis
Yuma myotis
Preble's shrew

Myotis evotis
Myotis thysanodes
Myotis volans
Myotis yumanensis
Sorex preblei

Birds

Northern goshawk
Western burrowing owl
Sage grouse
Black tern
Least bittern
White-faced ibis

Accipiter gentilis
Athene cunicularia hypugea
Centrocercus urophasianus
Chlidonias niger
Ixobrychus exilis hesperis
Plegadis chihi

Fish

Alvord chub
Pleasant Valley tui chub
Sheldon tui chub

Gila alvordensis
Gila bicolor ssp.
Gila bicolor eury soma

Invertebrates

California floater
Rice's blue butterfly
Nevada viceroy
Denio sandhill skipper
Springsnail species

Anodonta californiensis
Euphilotes pallescens ricei
Limenitus archippus lahontani
Polites sabuleti sinemaculata
Pyrgulopsis augustae
Pyrgulopsis aurata
Pyrgulopsis dixensis
Pyrgulopsis gibba
Pyrgulopsis imperialis
Pyrgulopsis limaria
Pyrgulopsis longiglans
Pyrgulopsis militaris
Pyrgulopsis notidicola
Pyrgulopsis pictilis
Pyrgulopsis sadai
Pyrgulopsis umbilicata

Plants

Weak milkvetch
Tiehm's milkvetch
Osgood Mountains milkvetch
Schoolcraft's cryptantha
Goodrich biscuitroot
Windloving buckwheat

Astragalus solitarius
Astragalus tiehmii
Astragalus yoder-williamsii
Cryptantha schoolcraftii
Cymopterus goodrichii
Eriogonum anemophilum

Crosby's buckwheat
Grimy ivesia
Bruneau River prickly phlox
Smooth stickleaf
Nevada oryctes
Nevada dune beardtongue
Cordelia beardtongue
Obscure scorpion plant
Soldier Meadows cinquefoil

Eriogonum crosbyae
Ivesia rhypara var. *rhypara*
Leptodactylon glabrum
Mentzelia mollis
Oryctes nevadensis
Penstemon arenarius
Penstemon floribundus
Phacelia inconspicua
Potentilla basaltica

ENCLOSURE B

FEDERAL AGENCIES' RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER SECTIONS 7 (a) AND (c) OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

SECTION 7 (a): Consultation/Conference

Requires:

- 1) Federal agencies to utilize their authorities to carry out programs to conserve endangered and threatened species;
- 2) Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) when a Federal action may affect a listed endangered or threatened species to insure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by a Federal agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The process is initiated by the Federal agency after determining the action may affect a listed species or critical habitat;
- 3) Conference with the Service when a Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat.

SECTION 7 (c): Biological Assessment - Major Construction Activity ^{1/}

Requires Federal agencies or their designees to prepare a Biological Assessment (BA) for major construction activities. The BA analyzes the effects of the action on listed and proposed species. The process begins with a Federal agency requesting from the Service a list of proposed and listed threatened and endangered species. The BA should be completed within 180 days after its initiation (or within such a time period as is mutually agreeable). If the BA is not initiated within 90 days of receipt of the list, the accuracy of the species list should be informally verified with the Service. No irreversible commitment of resources is to be made during the BA process which would foreclose reasonable and prudent alternatives to protect endangered species. Planning, design, and administrative actions may proceed; however, no construction may begin.

We recommend the following for inclusion in the BA:

1. An onsite inspection of the area affected by the proposal which may include a detailed survey of the area to determine if the species or suitable habitat are present.
2. A review of literature and scientific data to determine species distribution, habitat needs, and other biological requirements.
3. Interviews with experts, including those within the Service, State conservation departments, universities, and others who may have data not yet published in scientific literature.
4. An analysis of the effects of the proposal on the species in terms of individuals and populations, including consideration of cumulative effects of the proposal on the species and its habitat.
5. An analysis of alternative actions considered.
6. Documentation of study results, including a discussion of study methods used, any problems encountered, and other relevant information.
7. Conclusion as to whether or not a listed or proposed species will be affected.

Upon completion, the BA should be forwarded to our office with a request for consultation, if required.

^{1/} A construction project (or other major undertaking having similar physical impacts) is a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as referred to in NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4332 (2) C).